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CLAIMS

1. A hydrocarbon synthesis process comprising the conversion of a feed of H₂ and at least one carbon oxide to hydrocarbons containing at least 30% on a mass basis hydrocarbons with five or more carbon atoms (hereinafter referred to as C₅₊ compounds); the conversion being carried out in the presence of an alkali metal promoted iron hydrocarbon synthesis catalyst and an acidic catalyst suitable for converting hydrocarbons; and the process being characterised therein that the reaction mixture formed during the conversion contains less than 0.02 mol alkali metal per 100g iron and that the H₂ : carbon oxide molar ratio in the feed of H₂ and carbon oxide is at least 2.
2. The process of claim 1 wherein the synthesised hydrocarbons contain at least 40% on a mass basis C₅₊ compounds.
3. The process of either one of claims 1 or 2 wherein the hydrocarbon synthesis process comprises a high temperature Fischer-Tropsch process.
4. The process of any one of the preceding claims wherein the at least one carbon oxide in the syngas comprises CO.
5. The process of claim 3 wherein the alkali-metal promoted iron hydrocarbon.

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synthesis catalyst comprises a Fisher-Tropsch catalyst.

6. The process of claim 5 wherein the promoter comprises potassium or sodium oxide.

7. The process of any one of the preceding claims wherein the acidic catalyst comprises a zeolite.

10 8. The process of claim 7 wherein the zeolite comprises a HZSM-5 zeolite.

9. The process of any one of the preceding claims wherein the hydrocarbon synthesis catalyst and the acidic catalyst are contained on separate particles.

15 10. Hydrocarbons produced by the process of any one of claims 1 to 9.

11. The use of a hydrocarbon synthesis process for the conversion of a feed of H₂ and at least one carbon oxide to hydrocarbons containing at least 20 30% on a mass basis hydrocarbons with five or more carbon atoms (hereinafter referred to as C₅₊ compounds); the process comprising converting a feed of H₂ and at least one carbon oxide to hydrocarbons in the presence of an alkali promoted iron hydrocarbon synthesis catalyst and an acidic catalyst suitable for converting hydrocarbons; and the

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process being characterise therein that the reaction mixture formed during the conversion contains less than 0.02 mol alkali metal per 100g iron and that the H_2 : carbon oxide molar ratio in the feed of H_2 and carbon oxide is at least 2.

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